

Re: How accessibility is being prioritized at this year's World Cup

Hi X,

As you may know, this year's World Cup is taking place in Qatar, and with preparations underway I wanted to share with you the comprehensive support program non-profit [Qatar Foundation](https://www.qf.org.qa/) [https://www.qf.org.qa/] is putting in place to support visitors and fans with a range of developmental disabilities, whether physical or social-emotional.

To ensure an accessible experience for all, Qatar Foundation is:

- Investing in **training accessibility volunteers** in order to create a welcoming environment and visitor experience for football fans with disabilities
- Creating **sensory rooms** that provide a calm and secure environment, furnished by the Qatar Institute for Speech and Hearing, for those with sensory access requirements to watch the games, such as children and young adults with autism or other learning difficulties
- **Enhancing the game experience for blind fans**, where The Translation and Interpreting Institute at Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU), part of Qatar Foundation, is training football commentators on how to describe on-field action and significant visual information
- **Collating accessibility learnings** for future World Cups, so that this mega sporting event can continue to be accessible to all

If you are interested in learning more about these initiatives, I would be happy to connect you with [Alexandra \(Lex\) Chalat](https://www.qf.org.qa/media-center/experts/alexandra-chalat) [https://www.qf.org.qa/media-center/experts/alexandra-chalat], Director of Community Engagement and World Cup Legacy, at Qatar Foundation. Lex can speak to the steps that Qatar Foundation is taking in greater detail and shed light on how the organization is working to build local capacity and expertise in accessibility.

Best,
X

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